

REMARKS

The application includes claims 1-3 and 10-26 prior to entering this amendment. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takashimizu, Iizuka (U.S. Patent 6,721,009), Sakakibara (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0053157), and Furuoya (U.S. Patent 5,805,294). The Examiner rejected claims 10-11 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takashimizu, Iizuka, Watanabe (U.S. Patent 7,034,969). The Examiner rejected claims 15, 16-19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe, Sakakibara, and Furuoya. The Examiner rejected claims 20-21 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe and Iizuka.

Applicants amend claims 1 and 15. Claims 1-3 and 10-26 remain in the application after entering this amendment. Applicant does not add new matter and requests reconsideration.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting multiple interviews to discuss the claim rejections and the cited references. During the interview, the Examiner clarified the interpretation of the Iizuka, Watanabe, and Furuoya references presented in the Office Action. Applicants and the Examiner also were in substantial agreement that the dependent claim rejections were improper and would be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takashimizu, Iizuka, Sakakibara, and Furuoya. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

Claim 1 recites *pre-scanning one or more portions of a document with an optical sensing device to determine an effective region of the optical sensing device that corresponds to the scanned document, wherein the effective region is a portion of the optical sensing device.*

Applicant and the Examiner appear to be in substantial agreement that Takashimizu, Iizuka, and Sakakibara fail to disclose the recited claim features. The Examiner, however, asserts Furuoya discloses the recited pre-scanning.

Furuoya discloses a digital copying machine that can scan and print out an enlarged copy of an original document. The digital copying machine automatically selects the size of the enlarged copy based on a magnification requested by the user and a size of the original document

to be scanned, which is detected by pre-scanning the document. In other words, Furuoya detects its document size, so the digital copying machine can select copy sheets suitable for an enlarged copy of the original document. See, e.g., Furuoya, col. 8, lines 24-35.

According to the Examiner, Furuoya's pre-scan of a document discloses the recited pre-scanning, and Furuoya's line sensor discloses the recited optical sensing device. Furuoya's pre-scan, however, does not *determine an effective region of the sensing device that corresponds to the scanned document*. Instead, Furuoya pre-scans a document to select copy sheets suitable for an enlarged copy of the original document. See, e.g., Furuoya, col. 8, lines 24-35, where Furuoya pre-scans the document to determine its size, which in turn is utilized with a user-requested magnification to select a paper size for an enlarged copy of the document.

The Examiner further alleges that Furuoya's effective image reading region (shown in Figure 3) discloses the recited effective region of the sensing device. Furuoya's effective image reading region, however, is a distance a line sensor travels while scanning a document, which is distinctly different than the recited *effective region of the sensing device*. To crystallize this distinction, Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that *the effective region is a portion of the optical sensing device*. Since Furuoya's effective image reading region is a distance a line sensor travels while scanning a document, not *a portion of the optical sensing device* as the claim recites, Applicants request the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection to claim 1, and its corresponding dependent claims.

There further is no motivation or reason to combine Furuoya's pre-scanning activities with Iizuka, as Iizuka pre-sets its video camera sensor array 1 to a certain aspect ratio according to the type of video that it is set to capture, i.e., high-definition or broadcast video. See, e.g., Iizuka, col. 1, lines 25-52 and col. 7, lines 47-63. In other words, even assuming Furuoya's pre-scanning activities did disclose the recited claim features, which they do not, there is no reason to combine Furuoya's pre-scan with Iizuka, as Iizuka determines necessary and unnecessary portions of the sensor array 1 based on a pre-determined type of video that it is going to capture. Since the combination of Takashimizu, Iizuka, Sakakibara, and Furuoya fails to teach or suggest the above recited claim features, nor is there a reason or motivation to combine the references, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the instant rejection to claim 1 and its corresponding dependent claims.

Claim 1 further recites *reading the induced charges from the optical sensing device corresponding to the front region and the effective region for the first portion of the document*.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Takashimizu fails to disclose the recited reading. According to the Examiner, Iizuka discloses the recited claim features, specifically, the Examiner alleges Iizuka unnecessary portion L1 discloses the recited front region and the necessary portion C1 discloses the recited effective region.

There is no disclosure in Iizuka, however, of *reading the induced charges from the optical sensing device corresponding to the front region and the effective region for the first portion of the document*. See, e.g., Iizuka, col. 8, lines 57-61, where Iizuka discharges the unnecessary portion L1 and transfers the necessary portion C1 to an output section 5. Put differently, Iizuka's discharging of the unnecessary portion L1 is distinctly different than transferring the portion to the output section 5, and thus Iizuka fails to teach or suggest *reading the induced charges from the optical sensing device corresponding to the front region and the effective region for the first portion of the document*. Since none of the cited references teach or suggest the recited fetching the induced charges corresponding to the front region and the effective region for the first portion of the document, Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the instant rejection to claim 1, and its corresponding dependent claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 10-11 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takashimizu, Iizuka, and Watanabe. Applicants submit that dependent claims 10-11 and 13-14 are allowable at least based on their dependency from independent claim 1.

Furthermore, based on the Examiner interview, Applicants and the Examiner appear to be in substantial agreement that these dependent claims are improperly rejected. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 4, "[a] claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." See, also, MPEP § 608.01(n), section III. In the instant Office Action, the Examiner concedes that independent claim 1 includes claim features that are not taught by Takashimizu and Iizuka. See, e.g., Office Action, pages 3-5. The addition of the Watanabe reference does not cure this deficiency, as the Watanabe reference fails to disclose the recited pre-scanning and the recited shielding claim features in independent claim 1. See, e.g., Office Action, pages 11 and 12, where the Examiner indicates the Watanabe reference fails to disclose claim features that are generally similar to those presented in independent claim

1, such as the recited pre-scanning and the recited shielding claim features. Applicants therefore request the Examiner withdraw the improper rejections.

The Examiner rejected claims 15, 16-19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe, Sakakibara, and Furuoya. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

Claim 15 recites *pre-scanning one or more portions of a document with a sensing device to determine an effective region of the sensing device that corresponds to the scanned document, wherein the effective region is a portion of the optical sensing device.*

Applicant and the Examiner appear to be in substantial agreement that Watanabe and Sakakibara fail to disclose the recited claim features. The Examiner, however, asserts Furuoya discloses the recited pre-scanning.

As discussed above with regard to claim 1, there is there is no disclosure in Furuoya of the digital copying machine utilizing the pre-scan to *determine an effective region of the sensing device that corresponds to the scanned document, wherein the effective region is a portion of the optical sensing device* as the claim recites, as Furuoya pre-scans the document to select a paper size for an enlarged copy of the document. Since Furuoya's pre-scan to select a paper size for an enlarged copy is distinctly different than pre-scanning to *determine an effective region of the sensing device that corresponds to the scanned document*, Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 15 and its corresponding dependent claims.

Furthermore, there is no motivation or reason to combine Furuoya's pre-scanning activities with Watanabe or Sakakibara, as both Watanabe and Sakakibara pre-set the reading regions of their respective image sensors. See, e.g., Watanabe, col. 11, lines 49-62, where Watanabe discloses presetting its reading pixels based on a preset film type and a preset size of print (8x10, A4, etc) to be produced; see also, e.g., Sakakibara, Figure 8 and corresponding portions of the specification, where Sakakibara presets its scanning regions based on the resolution of the scan, for example, Sakakibara includes preset dummy pixels in its CCD line sensor that are adjacent to its preset 7500 effective pixels. In other words, even assuming Furuoya's pre-scanning activities did disclose the recited claim features, which they do not, there is no reason to combine Furuoya's pre-scan with Watanabe's and Sakakibara's pre-set reading regions of the image sensors, as the combination of Furuoya's pre-scan with Watanabe's and Sakakibara's pre-set reading regions of the image sensors would not *determine an effective*

region of the sensing device that corresponds to the scanned document, wherein the effective region is a portion of the optical sensing device. Since the combination of Watanabe, Sakakibara, and Furuoya fails to teach or suggest the above recited claim features, nor is there a reason or motivation to combine the references, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the instant rejection to claim 15 and its corresponding dependent claims.

Since claim 22 recites claim features that are generally similar to those discussed above in claim 15, claim 22 and its corresponding dependent claims are allowable for at least similar reasons. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection to claim 22, and its corresponding dependent claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 20-21 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe and Iizuka. Applicants submit that dependent claims 20-21 and 25-26 are allowable at least based on their dependency from independent claims 15 and 22.

Furthermore, based on the Examiner interview, Applicants and the Examiner appear to be in substantial agreement that these dependent claims are improperly rejected. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 4, “[a] claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” See, also, MPEP § 608.01(n), section III. In the instant Office Action, the Examiner concedes that independent claims 15 and 22 include claim features that are not taught by Watanabe. See, e.g., Office Action, pages 10-12. The addition of the Iizuka reference does not cure this deficiency, as the Iizuka reference fails to disclose the recited pre-scanning and the recited shielding claim features in independent claims 15 and 22. See, e.g., Office Action, pages 3-5, where the Examiner indicates the Iizuka reference fails to disclose claim features that are generally similar to those presented in independent claim 1, such as the recited pre-scanning and the recited shielding claim features. Applicants therefore request the Examiner withdraw the improper rejections.

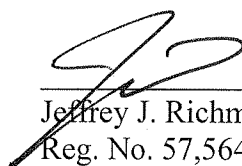
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. Applicant encourages the examiner to telephone the undersigned if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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